

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- no patentable weight*
1. An image file for storing a digital image and information related to the digital image, including:
 - a) digital image data;
 - b) a user identifier; and
 - c) affective information which relates to the feelings or emotions of the user toward the digital image.
 2. The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information further specifies the time or period within a range of times that the classification was performed.
 3. The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information identifies the importance of the image.
 4. The image file of claim 1 wherein the image file further includes information related to the capture device.
 5. The image file of claim 1 wherein the image data is a JPEG compressed image data.
 6. The image file of claim 1 wherein the digital image file includes affective information and user identifiers for a plurality of users.
 7. A method for providing a retrieval scheme for stored digital images, using the image file of claim 6, comprising the steps of:
 - a) a retrieval user providing a user identifier;

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b) using the user identifier provided by the retrieval user to select, from the plurality of affective information, the particular affective information associated with the retrieval user; and

c) using the affective information to facilitate image retrieval.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the affective information identifies the importance of the image to a plurality of users.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the affective information is used to determine the order of presentation of retrieved images.

10. The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information is provided by monitoring the facial expression of the user.

11. The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information is provided by monitoring the physiology of the user.

12. The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information is provided by a user interface which enables the user to indicate important images.

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